

SCOWCROFT  
L. L.

FIRST REPORT  
OF HAK'S TALKS  
IN MOSCOW

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RNR 1166

MIDEAST SECOND NIGHTLEAD KISSINGER (RNR 87)

BY VINCENT BUIST

MOSCOW, OCT. 20, REUTER - U.S.-SOVIET TALKS AIMED AT ENDING THE MIDDLE EAST WAR GOT UNDER WAY IN THE KREMLIN TONIGHT ONLY TWO HOURS AFTER SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER ARRIVED HERE FROM WASHINGTON.

A U.S. EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID TONIGHT'S SESSION HAD BEEN CALLED AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOVIET SIDE, LED BY COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF LEONID BREZHNEV. LAST NIGHT'S WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE KISSINGER TRIP SAID THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD BEEN INVITED BY THE RUSSIANS.

WITH BREZHNEV IN THE SOVIET NEGOTIATING TEAM WAS FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREO GROMYKO BUT PRIME MINISTER ALEXEI KOSYGIN, WHO SPENT FOUR DAYS IN CAIRO THIS WEEK REPORTEDLY DISCUSSING A KREMLIN-SPONSORED PEACE PLAN, WAS NOT PRESENT.

THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION FOR KOSYGIN'S ABSENCE. HE WAS OFFICIALLY REPORTED TO HAVE RETURNED FROM CAIRO YESTERDAY AND HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE TALKS WITH KISSINGER.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE, UPON HIS ARRIVAL HERE WOULD NOT COMMENT ON THE TOP-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS, BUT WHEN ASKED IF HE WOULD STAY IN MOSCOW FOR FOUR DAYS -- AS WAS SUGGESTED BY ONE AMERICAN SOURCE -- HE REPLIED, "I DON'T THINK SO."

THE TALKS ARE THE FIRST DIRECT MOVE BY MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON SINCE THE MIDDLE EAST WAR BEGAN TO DEVISE AN EQUITABLE AND ACCEPTABLE PLAN TO END THE CRISIS.

ALTHOUGH MOSCOW AND...5TH GRAF RNR 87.  
REUTER JW/SF 1531